



United in Christ: Hope Now! Hope Always!

“Wait, Israel, for God! Wait with hope! Hope now! Hope always! Psalm 131:3

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

January 17, 2021

Second Sunday after Epiphany

Pastor: Paula Geister-Jones Lay Ministry Administrator: Jenny Hoffman

Organist/Pianist: Linda Kunz Soloist: Kyla Betts

Lector: Brenda Zarth (8:00 a.m.) Moses Harris (9:15 a.m.)

Ushers: Jeff Morgan (8:00 a.m.)

Tune your radio to FM 87.9 Technical Support: Thomas Lehr

All the baptized have a calling in God’s world. God calls not just pastors and deacons but also the youngest child, like Samuel. The story of the calling of Nathanael plays with the idea of place. Nathanael initially dismisses Jesus because he comes from Nazareth. But where we come from isn’t important; it’s where—or rather whom—we come to. Jesus refers to Jacob, who had a vision in a place he called “the house of God, and . . . the gate of heaven” (Gen. 28:17). Jesus says he himself is the place where Nathanael will meet God.

CALL TO WORSHIP: Abide With Me” Guitar/Solo: Wendy Olson

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, whose voice is upon the water, whose mercy is poured out upon all people, whose goodness cascades over all creation.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin, trusting in the abundant grace of God.
Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Holy God

C: you search us and know us. You are acquainted with all our ways. We confess that our hearts are burdened by sin-our own sins and the broken systems that bind us. We turn to inward, failing to follow your outward way of love. We distrust those who are not like us. We exploit the earth and its resources and fail to consider generations to come. Forgive, gracious God, for all we have done and left undone. Even before the words are on our tongues, you know them; receive them in your divine mercy. Amen.

P: How vast is God's grace! Through the power and promise of ✝ Christ Jesus, our sins are washed away and we are claimed as God's own beloved. Indeed, we are forgiven. In the wake of God's forgiveness, we are called to be the beloved community living out Christ's justice and the Spirit's reconciling peace.

C: Amen.

HYMN: "Here I Am, Lord" #574 ELW

Vs 1: "I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry.

All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.

I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.

Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?"

Refrain:

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.

I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

Vs. 2: "I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain.

I have wept for love of them. They turn away.

I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.

I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?" *Refrain*

Vs. 3: "I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.

I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.

Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.

I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?" *Refrain*

GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Honk your horns to greet one another.

LITANY FOR EPIPHANY

P: In the beginning was the word,

C: and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

P: In the Word was life,

C: and the life was the light of all people.

P: The word became flesh and lived among us,

C: and we have seen his glory, full of grace and truth.

HYMN OF PRAISE: "Lord Be Glorified" #744 ELW

**Vs. 1: In my life, Lord, be glorified, be glorified;
in my life, Lord, be glorified today.**

**Vs. 4: In your world, Lord, be glorified, be glorified.
In your world, Lord, be glorified today.**

SALUTATION

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

Honk your horns to greet one another.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

C: Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, most merciful redeemer, for the countless blessings and benefits you give. May we know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day praising you, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

ANTHEM: "From the Day You Were Born" by Nagy

*Footnote: Like Eli in the Old Testament God is with us saying,
"Here am I, Come to me; Take my hand..."*

FIRST READING: 1 Samuel 3:1-10

¹⁻³ The boy Samuel was serving GOD under Eli's direction. This was at a time when the revelation of GOD was rarely heard or seen. One night Eli was sound asleep (his eyesight was very bad—he could hardly see). It was well before dawn; the sanctuary lamp was still burning. Samuel was still in bed in the Temple of GOD, where the Chest of God rested. ⁴⁻⁵ Then GOD called out, "Samuel, Samuel!" Samuel answered, "Yes? I'm here." Then he ran to Eli saying, "I heard you call. Here I am." Eli said, "I didn't call you. Go back to bed." And so he did. ⁶⁻⁷ GOD called again, "Samuel, Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli, "I heard you call. Here I am." Again Eli said, "Son, I didn't call you. Go back to bed." (This all happened before Samuel knew GOD for himself. It was before the revelation of GOD had been given to him personally.) ⁸⁻⁹ GOD called again, "Samuel!"—the third time! Yet again Samuel got up and went to Eli, "Yes? I heard you call me. Here I am." That's when it dawned on Eli that GOD was calling the boy. So Eli directed Samuel, "Go back and lie down. If the voice calls again, say, 'Speak, GOD. I'm your servant, ready to listen.'" Samuel returned to his bed. ¹⁰ Then GOD came and stood before him exactly as before, calling out, "Samuel! Samuel!" Samuel answered, "Speak. I'm your servant, ready to listen."

L: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL CANTICLE: "Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise" #207 ELW

**Thankful hearts and voices raise; tell ev'ryone what God has done.
Let ev'ryone who seeks the Lord rejoice and bear the name of Christ.
Send us with your promises and lead your people forth in joy
with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.**

The Gospel is announced...

P: The Holy Gospel according to John the 1st Chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: John 1:43-51

⁴³⁻⁴⁴ The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. When he got there, he ran across Philip and said, "Come, follow me." (Philip's hometown was Bethsaida, the same as Andrew and Peter.) ⁴⁵⁻⁴⁶ Philip went and found Nathanael and told him, "We've found the One Moses wrote of in the Law, the One preached by the prophets. It's *Jesus*, Joseph's son, the one from Nazareth!" Nathanael said, "Nazareth?"

You've got to be kidding." But Philip said, "Come, see for yourself." ⁴⁷ When Jesus saw him coming he said, "There's a real Israelite, not a false bone in his body." ⁴⁸ Nathanael said, "Where did you get that idea? You don't know me." Jesus answered, "One day, long before Philip called you here, I saw you under the fig tree." ⁴⁹ Nathanael exclaimed, "Rabbi! You are the Son of God, the King of Israel!" ⁵⁰⁻⁵¹ Jesus said, "You've become a believer simply because I say I saw you one day sitting under the fig tree? You haven't seen anything yet! Before this is over you're going to see heaven open and God's angels descending to the Son of Man and ascending again."

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN: "Drawn to the Light" #593 ELW

**Vs. 1: People who walk in darkness have sought
a light in the heart of the darkest night.**

Just when we thought all would be lost, we were drawn to the light of God.

Refrain

**Dawn is in sight! Gone is the night, drawn to the light and the morning.
Glorious and bright, oh, what a sight to be drawn to the light of God.**

**Vs. 2: How can we tell a heaven from hell if ev'ryone dwells in the dark of night?
Morning dispels, gently compels, and we're drawn to the light of God.**

Refrain

**Vs. 3: Where is the sun? Oh, there will be none!
The Lamb is the one who is shining bright, bids us to come! Life has begun
when we're drawn to the light of God. *Refrain***

APOSTLE'S CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,**

**suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESION

P: Guided by Christ made known to the nations, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.

Honk your horns three times after each petition

P: For the body of Christ gathered throughout the world and for all servants of the gospel, that following Jesus, the church lives out its calling every day, let us pray.

C: Have mercy, O God.

P: For the well-being of creation, for plants and animals, and for all that God has marvelously made, that we serve as wise stewards of Earth, our home, let us pray.

C: Have mercy, O God.

P: For police officers and firefighters, for attorneys and paralegals, for peacekeepers and military personnel, and for the leaders of governments, that they provide protection to all people, especially the most vulnerable, let us pray.

C: Have mercy, O God.

P: For those lacking food or shelter, for those who are sick or grieving, and for those who are imprisoned or homebound, that God console all who suffer, let us pray.

C: Have mercy, O God.

P: For our neighborhood, for visitors joining us for the first time or returning, and for those absent from our assembly, that all who seek to know God are nourished by word and sacrament, let us pray.

C: Have mercy, O God.

P: In thanksgiving for the saints who have gone before us, that their lives give us a vision of the gospel in action, let us pray.

C: Have mercy, O God.

P: Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, spoken or silent, for the sake of the one who dwells among us, your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: Amen.

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Honk your horns to greet one another.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy name,

thy kingdom come,

thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;

and forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us;

and lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,

and the power, and the glory,

forever and ever. Amen.

ANOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

P: God the creator strengthen you; Jesus the beloved fill you; and the Holy Spirit the comforter ✠ keep you in peace.

C: Amen.

P: Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.

C: Thanks be to God!

SENDING HYMN: "This Little Light of Mine" ELW 677

**Vs. 1: This little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
this little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
this little light of mine, I'm goin'-a let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**

**Vs. 2: Ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
ev'rywhere I go, I'm goin'-a let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**

**Vs. 3: Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'-a let it shine;
Jesus gave it to me, I'm goin'-a let it shine,
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.**

POSTLUDE: "This Joy" arranged by Hampton